

As a member of the Radio committee and Relief Treasurer of the Leo Independent Fire Company, Red Lion, PA, I am writing to oppose the use of exposed or open line BPL. Our Fire company uses the 33 Mhz. Fire Band for all of it's communications along with fire companies in a 4 county area covering more than 2000 Square miles and 2 million residents in South central PA. This area is by and large very hilly and the 30-50 Mhz band offers the best coverage in our terrain. In addition volunteer fire companies do not have sufficient resources to replace all of our fire radios in a short period of time. We oppose the use of exposed or open line BPL because of the interference potential to our vital life saving radio communications. BPL poses a serious potential problem user of the 33 mhz public safety Spectrum. In test areas where this technology has been employed and in Europe where it is being used, SERIOUS interference problems exist on frequency bands that are employed. Currently Cable Services deliver similar services via "Closed Circuit" cables and fiber optics. Leakage of the Cable Services into the HF spectrum are severely dealt with by the FCC. Leakage if BPL into the HF/ Low VHF spectrum will not even be a violation as open wire cannot suppress leaking of RF. If BPL is permitted, it should be only on shielded and filtered lines, similar to those required by the cable TV industry. RF signals are not supposed to escape from or intrude into the cable TV lines. Radio signals can coexist with cable signals even on the same frequencies. Havoc occurs when signals leak into and out of the cables. Unless the FCC can guaranty no interference will exist it is foolhardy to put the public at risk to provide a service that is currently available from at least three other sources. (CABLE, DSL and Direct Broadcast Satellite)

Thank you for your attention to this comment.